



THE HISTORY OF
DAMON AND PYTHIAS,

OR,

True Friendship tried and rewarded.

PLEASURE, is, itself, an effect, and cannot be the cause, or principle, or motive to any thing; it is an agreeable sensation that arises in any animal, on its meeting or contemplating an object that is suited to its nature. As far as the nature of such an animal is evil, evil objects can alone affect it with pleasure; as far as the nature of such an

THE YOUNG MORALIST.

an animal is good, the objects must be such, whereby its pleasures are excited.

When Damon was sentenced by the tyrant of Syracuse, to die on such a day, he obtained, by permission, in the interim, to retire to his country, to set the affairs of his family in order. This the tyrant refused, as he conceived, on the impossibility of his procuring some one to replace him for his return, under equal conditions. Pythias heard the condition, and did not wait for an application on his behalf; he instantly offered himself in the place of his friend, and was accordingly set at liberty.

The King and all his courtiers were astonished at this action, as they could not count for it on any allowed principle of interest, in their judgment, was the mover of human affairs: and they admired the virtue, friendship, benevolence, loyalty, and the like, as terms inverted, to impose upon the weak. Therefore imputed this act of Pythias to the vagance of his folly, to the defect of his reason, and no way to any virtuous quality of heart.

When the day of his destined execution drew near, the tyrant had the curiosity to see Pythias in his dungeon. Having